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OF RELIGION

n Year JANUARY, 1947 No. 1

CONGREGATIONAL YOUTH LEAD THE WAY

With world need and world adventure their doorstep, the 225 Pilgrim Fel-wship youth assembling at Lodi, De-mber 27-30 for their annual Midwin-Conference responded eagerly and ageously.

Hearing the headline reports on Con-gational work in Mexico from Rev. wrence Stanton of Guadalajara, they swered his invitation with a definite an to send several caravaners to visit e Mexico PF conference and perhaps d vacation schools there. Pilgrim Fel-wship is already supporting Stanton's rk through its $5,200 budget.

Firsthand news of Congregational Re-nstruction work was brought by Rev. enton (Rikki) Brown of Scotland, who so preached the Conference sermon, ashed his kilts, and became the life of e party. Personal pledges of over $450 ere made by delegates, thus bringing F. considerably past the halfway point ward the $2,000 CWVR goal. The cash fering of $310 was divided equally be-ween CWVR and the Mexico project.

After more than seven hours' work by e resolutions committee, and consider-ble debate on the floor, a resolution was assed launching a special committee un-er the Social Action Commission to ackle the problems of sex crime and xcesses in this high school generation, alling on local groups to work out a noral code to be adopted in their com-nunities which demonstrates that "de-ency can be fun," proves the dangers of ow standards, and points to Christian ove rather than Hollywood "love" as he norm.

Other resolutions called on local groups o observe Brotherhood Sunday, to sub-cribe to Social Action and Washington Reports, endorsed the Mexico caravan, alled for a clarification of Junior High nd Student relationships to the rest of Pilgrim Fellowship.

IDEAL HOSTS

Never has your reporter seen more spontaneous and joyous cooperation on the part of a host church to a conference —and that is saying a good deal—than was evidenced at Lodi, by the people of First and Ebenezer Churches. When people signed up to help with meals, usually more came than were expected, and they stayed on, and came back again. Heartfelt thanks is due the pastor, the hosts, and all the countless helpers.

Seven hundred dollars' worth of groceries was packed into the hungry youngsters, as they packed into the Eagles Hall where meals were served. Mrs. Myron Alexander of Antioch had the situation well in hand.

BUSINESS AND MISSIONS

Bruce MacKenzie, president of Northern California Pilgrim Fellowship, piloted the group through three heavy business sessions. Other officers presided at the various dinners and meetings of the crowded weekend.

A missionary luncheon Saturday noon featured decorations at each table to fit the five missionary projects of P.F., with brief talks about each. Miss Bluebell Reade of India spoke about Christian youth there. Mrs. Henry Clark of South Berkeley spoke of Fessenden Academy and the A.M.A.

With purposes practical as well as inspirational, delegates divided into workshop groups to plan various aspects of the local P.F. program. Presidents, meeting with Rev. Don Gaylord, worked at Parliamentary law and group leadership. Vice-presidents studied latest program suggestions. Each state officer and Commission chairman, with an adult adviser, held a workshop for local leaders.

At another workshop hour, all delegates participated in group discussions on the proposed merger of E and R with Congregational Christian Churches, after presentation by the Lodi Reformed pastor, Rev. Reuben Huenemann.

And that isn't all: five recreation sessions in the Lodi Armory, emceed by Recreation Commissioner Matthew Fong, assisted by Field Secretary Wim Meyer; movies on summer camp and "The Color of a Man" and Mexico and Fessenden Academy; an Interdenominational Rally bringing together youth of other Lodi area churches for the Sunday afternoon program; a special meeting on Lifetime Christian Service; an outstanding address by Supt. Harley Gill; the Conference banquet; and lots more.

Throughout the Conference, and for many weeks preceding it, Director Eugene Haynes was on the job, tying together loose ends, and doing his best to keep in the background.

If anyone needed convincing, Pilgrim Fellowship Midwinter Conference certainly indicates that our young people are alert and loyal, that they take their responsibilities seriously, that they have an important role in the life of the Church and are playing it now.

CHAPEL AND CHOIR

Student led chapel services go far toward building the spirit of Mid-winter. Candlelight communion service on Sunday evening, led by Rev. Robert Carlson of Campbell, brought to a focus of Christian dedication all the plans and all the fellowship of the Conference. The Mid-winter Choir, assembled for the first time at 4 p. m., sang at 5 p. m. the same day! In the three and one-half days the choir sang 7 times at the chapels, under the able leadership of George Brandon of Stockton, who also served as conference organist and gave recitals preceding each chapel.

Plymouth House

A delegation from Plymouth House attended the Asilomar Conference, the regional gathering of the Y. M. and Y. W. C. A. Three members were among the delegation to the N.I.C.C. assembly in Illinois, others were in evidence at the mid-winter Pilgrim Fellowship conference at Lodi.

Some thirty members cooperated in the presentation of Panthalia on December 13. Two one-act plays and a musical program were staged. An offering was taken to assist Plymouth House in paying its pledges to Pilgrim Fellowship and the World Student Christian Federation. During the month the Plymouth House choir, which rehearses weekly under the direction of Charles Black, made its debut singing a short program on Sunday evening, December 8.

PASTORS TO MEET

Congregational ministers and many lay people from Northern California are already laying plans to attend the Pastoral Conference at Pacific School of Religion, Berkeley, Feb. 11-12-13. Headlining the list of able speakers is the famous lecturer and author, Lewis Mumford, who will give the Earl Lectures on "Christianity in a Time of Troubles."

Congregationalists will be keenly interested in the coming of Dr. Albert Peel, of London, England, editor of the Congregational Quarterly. He will speak daily on "The Church in the Modern World."

The following faculty members will conduct seminars: Jack Finegan, The Archeological Background of the Old Testament; Buell Gallagher, The Pons Asinorum of Ethical Religion; Hugh V. White, The Doctrine of God and the Person of Christ; George H. Williams, The Church in Russia.

There will also be work shops in the afternoon: Emerson Blodgett, Pastoral Counselling; Elbert Conover, The Design and Planned Equipment of the American Protestant Church; Ross Griffith, The Town and Country Church; Randolph C. Miller, Youth in the Church; Priscilla Neff, For Women Only; Galen Weaver, The Church and Race.

GALEN WEAVER TO DIRECT RACIAL CLINICS

The Conference Council for Social Action is laying plans for a visit in February by Rev. Galen Weaver, secretary of our Committee on Church and Race. Mr. Weaver will open his schedule in California with a workshop in connection with the Pastoral Conference at Pacific School of Religion. Following this there will be inter-racial round tables or clinics in Fresno, the arrangements being made by Rev. John H. Gregg, and in Oroville with Rev. Maurice L. de Vries in charge. It is possible that at least one other city will be visited. Prof. Buell Gallagher, chairman of the Social Action Committee, is being assisted in preparatory plans by Mrs. Clayton Gill of Tulare and Dr. Prescott Thompson.

Mr. Weaver was for many years the pastor of the Church of the Crossroads in Honolulu. Because of his outstanding success in dealing with inter-racial problems he was chosen to lead in the plans launched at Grinnell for a two-year period of emphasis on this most urgent question.

RESEARCH AND SURVEY

The Northern California-Western Nevada Council of Churches now has a Department of Research and Survey. The Rev. W. Edgar Gregory, since the close of the war the Executive Director of the Commission on Ministry to Service Personnel and Veterans of the San Francisco Council of Churches, will head up the work and serve as executive officer for the Comity Commission. Mr. Gregory is a graduate of Colorado College and Chicago Theological Seminary and a member of our Bay Association. The new Department of Research and Survey will furnish the data on which denominational executives, meeting in the Comity Commission, will plan the churching of northern California.

Study and Strategy

A study and strategy meeting for Metropolitan Bay Area Congregational Churches will be held in the First Congregational Church in San Francisco on the afternoon of Feb. 6, beginning at 2 o'clock. The subject for discussion will be the Report of the "San Francisco Bay Area Church Study." This report, which is a book of 113 pages, is the result of the survey made by H. Paul Douglass and his associates nearly two years ago. Congregational pastors and lay people need to give careful consideration to the failures and shortcomings of our work in this area. Tables of statistics will be prepared showing what has happened to each of our churches during the past twenty-five years.

Beginning at 6 o'clock the annual dinner and meeting of the Bay Association will be held. The price of the dinner will be $1.10. Business will be transacted, including election of officers. The address of the evening will be delivered by Prof. Jack Finegan, of the Pacific School of Religion.

LAYMEN'S LEADER COMING

Northern California is to have a visit early in March by Mr. Walter A. Graham, newly elected executive director of the Laymen's Fellowship. The Laymen's Commission, headed by Mr. Harold Avery, is making plans for a School of Churchmanship at Pacific School of Religion during his stay in Northern California. A series of dinners for laymen will be held. Tulare, Fresno, and Stockton have already agreed as to dates. The February Pacific will have the announcements in greater detail.

Mr. Graham is an attorney, having been educated at Kentucky Wesleyan College and Yale University Law School. He is a member of the United States Court of Appeals in the District of Columbia and is licensed to practice before the United States Supreme Court. He has been chairman of the Young Adult Committee of the Washington Council of Churches. He brings to this post, as successor to Donald Adams, splendid ability and the capacity for outstanding leadership.

CLEVELAND MEETINGS

The usual Mid-winter Meeting will be held in Cleveland, Ohio, beginning Jan. 18. Mrs. Scott Haymond and Rev. Sidney Buckham will be in attendance as members of the Board of Home Missions. Field Secretary Wm. W. Meyer will be meeting with the superintendents, the Missions Council, and education groups. Rev. Mary McKee Chester will be speaker at the Board of Home Missions luncheon. Mrs. E. D. Kientz will be in attendance at the Missions Council and the meeting of the Women's State Presidents. Superintendent Harley H. Gill will be meeting with the superintendents and with the American Board of Commissioners for Foreign Missions.

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

January 30—Annual Meeting, Federation of Congregational Women, Grace United Church, San Francisco.

February 11, 12, 13 — Pastoral Conference, Pacific School of Religion.

March 9—Laymen's School of Churchmanship, Pacific School of Religion.

April 6—Easter.

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"SERMONS FOR TODAY"

Pilgrim Press has just published a volume known as "Sermons for Today," compiled by the Alumni Association of Hartford Theological Seminary as a tribute to Rockwell Harmon Potter. Dr. Potter is Dean Emeritus of the Seminary and former moderator of our General Council. The editor is Rev. Frederick H. Thompson, president of the Alumni Association. Among the list of preachers whose sermons are presented are Rev. Hugh Elmer Brown, Rev. Raymond Calkins, Rev. Fred Field Goodsell, Rev. Douglas Horton, Rev. Oscar E. Maurer, Rev. Russell H. Stafford, and Rev. Gaius Glenn Atkins. The price of the book is $2.00 and can be ordered through the Pacific Book Service.

M. E. M. PLANS

Plans are well under way for the 1947 Missionary Education Movement Conference at Asilomar, August 1 to 6. The theme will be "Evangelism." The main study book by Willis Lamott will be presented by the author. There will be classes for young people, a method of teaching missions to adults, an advance course in evangelism, and there will be denominational conferences and laymen's meetings. The chaplain will be Rev. Pierson Parker. Further details will be published later.

"DEAN" HUGH VERNON WHITE

Prof. Hugh Vernon White has been named as dean of the Pacific School of Religion, which duties he will carry in addition to his professorship of Christian Theology. Dr. White is a graduate of Pacific School of Religion and has advanced degrees from Stanford and Harvard Universities. For eight years or more he was pastor of our church at Stockton. Later, he was secretary of the American Board of Commissioners for Foreign Missions. The Pacific congratulates Dr. White, and also congratulates the School on the appointment.

GREETINGS FROM CLELANDS

Letters have been received form Dr. and Mrs. Gail Cleland, who are in Korea. Dr. Cleland has been promoted and has the full rank of colonel. He is the chief of the Bureau of Public Opinion under the American Military Government. It is his duty to learn public opinion, to advise the military governor, and to do constructive work in preparation for democratic self-government. Four hundred thousand copies of a handbook on constitutional government which he wrote have been distributed. Mrs. Cleland is teaching in a boys' school.

PASTORS' LUNCHEON

Congregational pastors will have their customary luncheon together during the Pastoral Conference, which will come on Wednesday, Feb. 12.

Congregationalists and Creeds

The Congregational fellowship is a demonstration of the only possible basis of church union. There will never be a universal church unless there is room for various forms in the observance of the ordinances and unless there is room for differences in interpretation of religious truth. That is the reason that most of our churches do not have a creedal test for membership.

The so-called "Kansas City Statement of Faith" is not a creed and it was never intended that it should be used as a test of membership. To use its own wording, it gathers up and sets forth "the things most surely believed among us." Many churches, perhaps most churches, do not use it at all in their forms for reception of members, and those who do use it think of it as an act of worship rather than creed.

Congregational churches, for the most part, do not ask their members to give assent to doctrines; they ask them to give assent to a covenant. In other words, the test of membership is not what one believes, but what one intends to do and be.

In doing this our Congregational fellowship puts the test exactly where Jesus put it; when he went about selecting his disciples he did not ask one of them what he believed. He did not even ask whether they believed in the virgin birth, or the second coming, or the physical resurrection, or the inerrancy of the Scriptures, or the Trinity, or water baptism. He simply said, "Follow Me." In other words, the basis of discipleship was a "way of life" rather than a belief. Jesus was wise enough to see that men might have creeds that would meet intellectual tests and yet whose way of life would be anything but Christian. That was what he meant when he said, "Not everyone that saith unto me 'Lord, Lord,' shall enter into the Kingdom of Heaven, but he that doeth the will of my Father."

Congregationalists do not minimize the importance of beliefs. We simply do not require that all beliefs shall fall into one groove. We look out over the great body of Christians, seeing wide differences of doctrines, some of them irreconcilable with others, but we dare to include them all within our circle of Christian fellowship, and to feel that Christianity is richer because of the many interpretations of truth. We believe that there is no reason why people may not live happily together in a church serving our Lord Jesus Christ, even when they have opinions that are wide apart. Does this not often happen in a family?

There are those who feel that Congregationalists have let down the bars, have lowered the standards because our sole test of membership is the expressed desire to be a follower of Jesus. Let him who thinks that that standard is low, try in his own life to measure up to it.

Humbly we confess that none of us measures up to it. At best we follow Him afar off. To use the words of the Oxford Conference, "We do not call the world to be like us; we are already too much like the world. We call the world and ourselves to the feet of Jesus."

—H.H.G.

BEREAVED

Rev. and Mrs. Burton M. Palmer are bereaved in the loss of their son, David, in an airplane accident on Thanksgiving evening. David, who was a splendid pilot, had gone up in a plane alone and in landing hit a heavy power line. He had recently been at home for an extended visit and attended communion service at Niles, where his father presided. Our Congregational folk extend deepest sympathy.

ARRIVED

Elizabeth Ann arrived to join an older sister in the home of Rev. and Mrs. William F. Keeney of Weaverville on December 10. This is the first baby to come to the Weaverville parsonage since the memory of man runneth not to the contrary.

ALTURAS. Three choirs are being trained and plans are under way for vestments for all of them. Communion was celebrated at a midnight candle-light service on Christmas eve. Rev. and Mrs. William Moll Case frequently have open house, inviting folk from all over the county.

BERKELEY, CHINESE. The Chinese Language School was reopened in November. A mid-week prayer meeting has been organized. A splendid Christmas tree program was held on the Saturday night before Christmas. Dr. Hoh Yamtong is the pastor.

BERKELEY, SOUTH COMMUNITY. The third anniversary of the founding of the church was celebrated in November with a highly successful church dinner. Mr. Roy Nichols has closed his work and the church is active seeking a successor.

LOLETA. A new roof is being placed on the building, costing nearly $700.

PESCADERO. The annual meeting of the church will be held on January 20. Mr. Donald Kirkbride, the minister, led a group of carolers on a goodwill tour Saturday night before Christmas. The church has a new chimney, which now takes care of the smoke problem.

BERKELEY, ARLINGTON AVENUE. By holding three successive services on Sunday morning, the limited facilities are being made to stretch to cover the needs of the different-aged groups. If ever a church needed a building, this one does. Rev. Herbert Dimock is the pastor.

SACRAMENTO, PIONEER. Thirty-three members united on January 12th. Rev. Torrance Phelps, pastor, is completing his year as president of the Northern California Council of Churches and will preside at the annual meeting on January 14.

FOWLER. People of this church presented their pastor, Rev. Sarkis Papajian, with a 1946 Chevrolet Sedan. Would that more churches recognized their obligation to help the minister in his problems of transportation.

CLOVERDALE. Rev. Verdette Walters is regularly supplying this church. A splendid Christmas season was rather hurriedly arranged for, but beautifully carried through.

SAN FRANCISCO, GRACE UNITED. Six new members were received on a recent Sunday. Rev. E. LeRoy Abbott is the pastor.

PACIFIC SCHOOL of RELIGION

PREPARES for the RELIGIOUS VOCATIONS

BERKELEY CALIFORNIA

LODI, FIRST. The time and energy of the pastor, Rev. A. R. Boone, and his people, was taken the latter part of December in carrying through the entertainment of Pilgrim Fellowship Conference, but they did a fine job of it. Christmas was a happy season in this church. The story of the writing of "Silent Night, Holy Night" was presented as a cantata.

CROCKETT. At a surprise birthday party a large purse was presented to Rev. C. V. Carlson for the purchase of new books. The church was crowded to capacity at the finest White Christmas program ever put on. Plans are already under way for an Easter pageant. The Ladies' Aid is preparing for a bazaar to be held in March.

SAN CARLOS. This church is entirely free from debt, having paid its obligations to the Building Society and to the Santa Clara Association. It owns a splendid property for future expansion and has a nest egg of about $10,000 cash toward a new building. Rev. Weldon Batty is pastor.

WEAVERVILLE. The Every Member Canvass was a success. Twenty high school young people did Christmas caroling. Some Sunday School work has been opened in Minersville. The Weaverville church is using the bulletins printed by the Missions Council. Rev. William F. Keeney is pastor.

SAN MATEO. Rev. Sidney H. Buckham has completed ten years as pastor of this church, which event was recognized by a lovely gift and by many expressions of cordial goodwill. Rev. Benton Gaskell has been in charge of the Sunday worship hour presented by the ministers over radio station KVSM.

ORINDA. The Every Member Canvass shows that the published budget will be more than met for the year. More than $700 will be contributed toward benevolences. Five hundred and fifty attended the Christmas Service in the Orinda Theatre on Sunday, the 22nd.

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MINISTERS AND CHURCHES ON THE JOB

PALO ALTO. One hundred seventy-five members and friends of the church attended a reception given for Rev. and Mrs. Augustine Jones, who were completing their service with the church. Messages from different departments of the church were read and the growth and progress of the church during Dr. Jones' leadership was traced. Substantial gifts of money were made by the grateful people, and gasoline script to care for travel on the long trip among American Missionary Association schools which Dr. and Mrs. Jones will take. Forty years in the ministry have been completed. In closing his work, Dr. Jones wrote to his successor, Rev. G. Arthur Casaday: "I shall have the unique experience of sitting down and looking up. You will find us four ministers (Dodge, Pleasant, Thorp and Jones) a loyal crowd. I will never volunteer for any service; neither will I refuse to render service requested by my successor, if within my power."

ANGELS CAMP. Rev. L. D. Granger made good use of his previous experience as a chaplain and secured from the War Assets Administration a pre-cut, all new wood, barracks type building, insulated with masonite, which will provide a building 20 by 48 feet. The lot back of the church has been leveled and the new unit will be joined with the present social hall, making an "L"-shaped educational building. This will take care of the Sunday School and will provide for group gatherings and banquets, seating up to 200 persons. The completed unit, including erection, will cost about $3000.

BERKELEY, FIRST. Rehearsals are under way for the presentation for the oratorio Elijah in February. Rev. Fred Field Goodsell, executive vice-president of the American Board, shared the pulpit with the pastor, Rev. Vere V. Loper, on Sunday, the 15th of December. As in previous years the Christmas Eve candlelighting service was beautiful and inspiring, and a capacity congregation was present. More than $2,000 was contributed in response to the initial invitation for the War Victims Fund for the coming year.

OAKLAND, BETHANY. Rev. Zenas A. Yeghoyan has been called as pastor. He was born in Turkey and has recently been a missionary under the Southern Baptist denomination to Haiti. He has supplied the church for several months, and impressed the people to such an extent that they have called him as pastor. He has returned to Haiti to bring his wife. He has two children in college in the United States.

OAKLAND, PILGRIM. The new Pilgrim Hymnal is being purchased. The High School Pilgrim Fellowship had a fun night at the Oakland Y.M.C.A. Foundations are being laid for the new church addition. A young people's group, ages 18 to 25 years, are meeting each Wednesday evening. Mr. Leland Mahood is the pastor.

PENNGROVE. A Christmas play, "The Little Shepherd," was given the Friday night before Christmas, and the Pilgrim Fellowship gave a pageant on December 22 and sang carols Christmas Eve. Seventy-six children are enrolled in the Sunday School, and 40 for released time of religious instruction. Rev. George Hetenyi is pastor.

PORT CHICAGO. The Sunday School children gave up their Christmas treats in order that the money might be sent to C.W.V.R. Rev. and Mrs. W. C. Besselievre were the recipients of a lovely blanket as a Christmas gift.

TULARE. Fifteen persons were received into fellowship on December 14, bringing the total for the year up to 52, of which 18 were by confession and 12 by reaffirmation. Thirty-five of these new folks hold some office or responsibility. The church has opened what it calls the Friends' Memorial Fund. To this any person may contribute any amount as a memorial to a loved one instead of the sending of flowers at the time of the funeral. The name of each person honored will be inscribed in a beautiful book of remembrance. A separate record of the funds will be kept by the church treasurer. The money will be used for enduring and beautiful memorials, consideration being given to the desires of the family in the selection. Readers of The Pacific who may be interested in the plan may secure a mimeographed copy by writing to Rev. Clayton H. Gill, 220 W. Tulare St., Tulare, California.

PITTSBURG. Three notable achievements have been registered during 1946. The sanctuary was decorated, and then completely remodeled, and a new Hammond organ was purchased. Fifteen men of the parish, led by the minister, Rev. Elmer W. Benedict, did the remodeling. Seating arrangements were made so that there is now a center aisle leading to an altar with choir and reading desk on one side and pulpit and organ console on the other. Supt. Harley H. Gill preached the sermon on the Sunday of rededication. The Pilgrim Fellowship has grown from 5 to 35 in number.

HAYWARD. A Bell & Howell sound motion picture projector has been added to the equipment of the church, also a slide projector, and fifty new metal folding chairs. A part-time secretary for the church office has been secured. The library is growing. Following the formation of a couples group, a new youth group of young people from 18 to 25 has been projected. The annual meeting was held on Sunday, the 12th, and one week later the new officers are to be installed. Rev. Richard C. Norberg is pastor.

SAN FRANCISCO, FIRST. During the Christmas season great music was presented in this church. On December 15 the Messiah was given twice and a full evening of Christmas music was presented on the night of the 22nd. The church also held a service on Christmas day. Thirteen new members have been received into this fellowship. Rev. Jason Noble Pierce is the pastor.

SAN LORENZO. The Community Church choir undertook and carried through creditably a performance of the Messiah at Christmas time. Members of the church and the minister, Rev. Homer A. Schwarz, took the leading parts in the Community Christmas Pageant. Two hundred fifty-nine people managed to squeeze into the Christmas Sunday service.

PETALUMA. Attendance during Advent reached a high point during the period of the present pastorate, with the exception of Easter. The gain over a year ago was 49 per cent. On Christmas eve there was a service of carols and candle-lighting at eleven o'clock. Rev. and Mrs. Herbert Gans had open house on New Year's afternoon.

GUERNEVILLE. The people of the community attended a farewell reception to Rev. and Mrs. Henry Hayden on January 7. The Haydens leave on January 15 for Albuquerque. The additional room for the church has been finished, which helps house the rapidly growing Sunday School.

OAKLAND, PLYMOUTH. Ten members were received in the Christmas class. A glorious nativity pageant was given on Sunday, December 22. The great church auditorium was nearly filled. Every child in church school was included in one way or another. The decorations were superb, and the great music of the church was interwoven. The costuming and the placing of the participants in various parts of the great building combined to make it most impressive. An offering was received for war relief. Mrs. Robert W. Inglis was the director, and she was assisted by Miss Alice Sanderson, Miss Mary Coxhead, Mr. Gwynn Jones, Mr. Alexander Pirie, and Mr. Paul Luyken.

FRESNO, JAPANESE. This church has suddenly been compelled to launch a tremendous forward movement. City fire laws prevent the moving of the army chapel which the church recently was awarded onto their property. Furthermore, there are indications that a super highway will come too close to the old church for comfort. As a result, a new lot 150 feet square has been purchased, and the chapel will be moved during January. A campaign for funds is under way. As soon as a favorable price can be secured the old property will probably be sold. Rev. George Aki is a busy but happy man with these developments.

PARADISE. This church is rejoicing in the news that has come that Rev. Robert M. Kennan has accepted their call to the pastorate and will begin on or about March 1. Mr. Kennan comes from the Wailuku Union Church, of Maui, Hawaii, where he has been the very successful pastor for a number of years. He was born in Pasadena, is a graduate of Pomona College and Yale Divinity School. Before going to Hawaii he served our churches in Ogden, Utah, and Houston, Texas. He is married and has two children, a boy and a girl.

FRESNO, FIRST. Twenty-four new members were received on Christmas Sunday, making a total of 90 for the year. Church attendance for November averaged 279 and for December 236. The Victory Dinner celebrating the more than successful church building campaign brought out 260 people. Nearly $2700 was given in the past year to all benevolent causes. The active resident membership is now over 500. Rev. John H. Gregg is pastor.

SAN FRANCISCO, PARK PRESIDIO. It was a notable occasion when the church celebrated the burning of the mortgage. No one present could remember when the church had previously been out of debt during its long history. The church has been greatly strengthened during the year by a large number of new members, and the Sunday morning congregation fills the sanctuary. Rev. Robert W. Moon is pastor.

OAKLAND, JAPANESE. Several Christmas baskets were sent to needy families in the Richmond and Hunters Point housing projects. Rev. Norio Ozaki, in addition to serving this church, ministers to some Japanese people in San Mateo and Richmond and San Francisco. The church received a Christmas offering from its friends and members amounting to $500.00.

SAN FRANCISCO, OCEAN VIEW. Rev. Samuel J. Vernon, who came to take up this work just a few months ago, and who has endeared himself in church and community, has been recalled to the chaplaincy. He feels the obligation to go, and reports at Fort Lewis on Jan. 21.

PORTERVILLE. Three services on the Sunday before Christmas, all well attended, offered a varied program of worship. At the first, the Junior choir sang, five babies were baptized and nine members were received. At the vesper candlelight service, there was a capacity crowd. The day's offering for war victims amounted to over $200. The pastor's wife, Mrs. W. L. Goldsmith, has been away several weeks, and upon her return, a program tea was held in her honor. Proposed increases in benevolences and local expenses are being met by a suggested 15 per cent increase in the average pledge for 1947.

LOOMIS. During the past month, the worship on one Sunday morning was completely conducted by the men of the church; on another Pilgrim Fellowship young people led the congregation worshipfully, each one speaking on one part of our Statement of Faith. A Christmas cantata was delivered by a choir of 50 voices. More than $1,000 is in the organ fund. The interior of the church will soon be decorated. The church is giving double the amount for benevolences and war relief that it gave a year ago. Twelve young people were in attendance at the mid-winter Conference. J. H. Bennett is the pastor.

SACRAMENTO, SIERRA - ARDEN. Two hundred fifty people attended the three-hour Christmas service. Due to lack of a church building, a commodious private home was used, the nursery and the primary departments the first hour, the Junior High and High School departments the second hour, and Adult worship period the third hour. The first Building Fund Campaign is well on the way. Rev. Mary McKee Chester has been invited to be one of the main speakers at the Board of Home Missions luncheon in Cleveland at the Mid-winter meetings.

STOCKTON. Rev. Noel J. Breed preached the sermon on Christmas Sunday after an absence from his pulpit of a number of weeks. His church has redecorated the social hall and fixed a very fine study for the minister on the first floor. Twelve new members recently joined, making a total of 51 for the year, the largest number for many years. Not only Stockton but the churches of the entire Conference rejoice because of Dr. Breed's return to health.

OAKLAND, FIRST. The women's league assisted with Christmas gifts to the Fairmount Hospital, and also prepared kiddie kits for destitute children abroad. Christmas baskets were distributed within the parish. The church school presented a pageant at the 9:45 Christmas Sunday service. On New Year's Eve, Rev. Clarence Reidenbach, pastor, held a special communion service. This was followed by a buffet supper and a program in the social hall.

FERNDALE. The Christmas decorations were unusual and were left in place until after New Year's in response to the requests of many people to view them. The altar and windows were tastefully arranged with evergreens and candles and the gallery was filled with a manger scene. Rev. Charles H. Hudson is pastor.

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WOMEN'S FEDERATION NEWS

Edited by Miss Helen M. Perkins

The Annual Meeting will be held at Grace United Church, 21st and Capp Streets, San Francisco, Thursday, January 30.

OUR WOMEN AT WORK

There was no meeting of the Federation of Congregational Women on the third Thursday of last December at the First Church of Oakland, but there were scores of meetings of Congregational women in scores of churches all over Northern California, at different times and occasions, all for the same purpose: to give service or bring cheer and pleasure.

Well over a dozen Christmas parties were reported from women's groups as far south as Fresno, where the party included not only the children of the members, but also the husbands, and from there all the way to Eureka in the north. Most of them, in addition to the exchange of gifts among the members, provided for those less fortunate. Cotati made a gift of $25 for War Victims; Sonoma sent gifts to the ill and the shut-ins; San Mateo, as usual, made special provision for the patients at the Canyon Sanitarium for tuberculosis sufferers. This year that work has been taken over by the Junior Guild of young married women. An especially attractive feature of the giving is that, in addition to uniform gifts for all, the individual desires of the needy among the patients are consulted and something included for which they have expressed a wish, thus making a personal thing of the ceremony. Larger churches, such as Oakland First, have been able to make their help felt in a variety of ways, such, for example, as providing some thirty gifts for the children of the missionary group who recently left us; and most have sent Christmas packages to their adopted European children.

Many beautiful and appropriate services were reported. Berkeley First had a Christmas Tea, with carols, a Christmas story read by Mrs. Bayard Buckham, our Secretary of Devotional Life Service, and especially lovely decorations. Mrs. E. B. Kientz was in charge of a delightful program in the Stockton church. There was a dialogue illustrated with pictures showing Christmas ceremonies in many lands, interspersed with musical numbers. Although Stockton had had its Thank Offering program earlier, including the monologue on the "mite box" which Mrs. James Cooper, our Thank Offering Secretary, gave at a Federation meeting not long ago, it was a pleasant thought to bring one of our Thank Offering projects into the Christmas celebration. So there was a skit on our last year's African project, based on Mabel Shaw's delightful book, "God's Candlelights." Cloverdale had its Christmas party at the home of one of the members, and prefaced it by the reading of the most beautiful of all Christmas stories, that which Luke tells, and by prayer. Your editor feels there must have been a special meaning to the party that followed. Petaluma also had a Christmas Tea, with a program at which the Children's Choir, in scarlet and white robes furnished them by the Women's Service Club earlier, sang Christmas songs and there were Christmas readings.

Other activities include the work of the Lodi women in arranging cross-word puzzles on cards for bed patients at Veterans' Hospitals—well over a hundred of them—which are eagerly welcomed by the boys. Incidentally, Lodi had its collective hands full preparing for the 200 or more of the Pilgrim Youth Fellowship who met there Dec. 27-30. The Armenian Congregational Church of Fowler sent boxes of dried fruit and nuts to St. Paul's Orphanage in Greenville, Pa. Eureka did not forget the centennial of the American Missionary Association: there was a special evening meeting to celebrate it, and a collection of $21 was received for it.

Much effort on the part of the ladies has been expended for the church they love and serve. Cloverdale is planning to remodel the kitchen of the parsonage. San Mateo, through its young women, has purchased a new Steinway Grand piano. Incidentally, San Mateo seems to have the Midas touch: its ladies aim at $500 from a rummage sale and come out with $1,000! Little Fowler, with a membership of twelve, besides food sales, picnic lunches, convention meals, and church banquets, has bought a large cook stove (so as to serve bigger and better dinners, we presume), and many stainless steel pots and pans for the church kitchen.

Church women have provided for those of their community outside themselves. The Priscilla Society of the Tulare church gave a big Christmas party, not for themselves but for the benefit of those who, because of work or the care of young children, can not get out in the daytime and yet need to feel kinship with the church people. In another case, Tulare builded better than she knew: a reception to the city teachers began as a Congregational enterprise, but before it was over nine churches were co-operating. That fact, said Mrs. N. E. Olsen, president of the Women's Group, was the most enjoyable part of the affair.

One thing of great promise for the future comes out in many reports: the growing participation of the younger women in the work of the local society and in the Federation. The Priscilla Society at Tulare, previously mentioned, is a group of young women recently organized; it is the young women of the San Mateo church who took over the work for Canyon Sanitarium and procured the Steinway Grand; Alameda started a young women's circle which has grown until it has become two, and they are helping in many forms of church work; Berkeley First and Oakland First both have large and active young women's groups.

Thank Offering reports also were encouraging. Cloverdale, although the women were unable to hold their service as planned, expects a larger amount than ever; Eureka raised $64 at a special service; Sonoma, in addition to its regular Thank Offering, gave $10 to Ministerial Relief and $10 to Pacific University; Santa Rosa gave a Thank Offering for War Victims; Sebastopol held a combined Christmas party and Thank Offering service; at the latter the 100 per cent participation was stressed and the offering was the largest they had ever had.

It has been a good year. Let us start the New Year with a full attendance at our Annual Meeting the LAST Thursday in January—the 30th—at Grace United Church of the Mission, San Francisco.

The meeting opens with registration at 9:45. There will be election of officers. Two outstanding speakers will be heard, Mrs. A. Hooft Graafland, wife of the vice-consul of the Netherlands, and Captain G. S. Perkins, who was on General MacArthur's staff. Association presidents will report. Mrs. John Olmsted, Sr. will conduct a memorial service for the late Mrs. Frank J. Greene. Rev. H. A. Kartozian will lead the closing devotions.

A BIT OF DRY TOAST

All hail to water crystal clear.
Drink all you want and never fear.
It will not narcotize your brain
And plant the seeds of future pain.

It will not blunt your moral sense
And clear the way to gross offense.
It will not make you indiscreet—
A menace on a crowded street.

It will not queer your steering gear
And give your eyes a telltale blear.
It will not make the near seem far
But let you see things as they are.

The beverage use of alcohol
Is riding high but toward a fall.
The modern age of the machine
Makes health demands that are extreme.

He that would qualify to serve
Must have a steady, normal nerve.
The narrow way of self-control
Means health and safety for the soul.

The contents of the water mug
Contain no habit-forming drug.
The spring a perfect drink supplies—
Oh, that all men were water wise!

—HENRY STAUFFER,
Berkeley, California.

THE BOARD OF ABSENTEES

We are the Board of Absentees;
We attend our Church about as we please.
We judge it will run of itself, you know,
And Sundays we're just too tired to go!

A PLEA TO GIVE THROUGH DENOMINATIONAL CHANNELS YOUR GIFTS FOR WAR VICTIMS

Many organizations are soliciting funds for war and famine relief.

You and others in your church can help any relief program by designating gifts and sending to Congregational Committee for War Victims and Reconstruction, through your own church treasurer.

This cannot be said too often: CWVR is glad to have funds designated. Give so your own Church will get credit.

It should be remembered that CWVR money and all benevolences should be sent through the Conference office. Then churches can have credit in the columns of The Pacific as the year advances.

NOTICE

The end of the apportionment year came on January 10. It is impossible to present church by church figures. Total report of our splendid increase in giving, together with the women's Thank Offering and the amount contributed by each church, will appear in the February issue.

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